

THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH WILL RISE THE MOST SUPERB INSTITUTION OF LEARNING IN THE WORLD.

N the hills at Berkeley, Cal., facing the Golden Gate, is to rise the most superb home possessed by any institution of learning in the world. It will belong to the University of California, and the plans on which it is to be built have been selected through an architectural competition that has been one of the towering events in the history of

In 1853 Henry Durant opened a school with three pupils in a former fanlango house in Oakland. That was the foundation on which the splendid fabric faintly illustrated above is to rise. The school was called the Contra Costa Academy, and was founded under the auspices of the Presbytery of San Francisco and the Congregational Association of California. A man named Quinn was hired, with his wife, to care for the building at \$150 a month aplece in advance. After six weeks the ghost began to be a little irregular in its appearance, and Quinn, remarking that whatever did not succeed in two months and a half in California never would succeed, set out an assortment of bottles and hung up a sign, "Lodgers and boarders wanted here. Drinks for sale at the bar.'

The fate of the future city of learning was trembling in the balance. But the difficulty was tided over, and in 1860 the Contra Costa Academy grew ato the College of California. The college was still a denominational instituon. In 1867 its trustees proposed to give the beautiful tract of land they had quired for a site to the State as the home of a State university. In 1868 the iversity was founded on the broadest lines as a public, non-sectarian instiion, open to both sexes, with provision for expansion over all the fields of nan thought. The College of California transferred its property to the new Itution, and went out of existence. The university also received the na-al land grant for the establishment of colleges of agriculture and the anic arts, and various grants from the State. Its first president was Burant, who had opened the original school in the fandango house.

e university remained in Oakland until 1873, when it moved to the site d by Mr. Durant fifteen years before for the C ege of California, and

named Berkeley in honor of the prophetic bishop, who had observed the westward course of empire and predicted that Time's noblest offspring would be the last. The grounds were laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted, and even then there were not wanting ideas of the future grandeur of the institution. But it did not occur to anybody to make provision for a symmetrical and beautiful architectural growth. There were two buildings to begin with, highly creditable to an infant school on the frontiers of civilization, but of no particular artistic pretensions. After a while others grew up, as they were needed, one at a time, and each designed without any reference to its neighbors. The result is a collection of about a dozen structures that shriek at each other in language architecturally unfit for publication.

Meanwhile the university had been growing so fast that it had overflowed all its accommodations, and some of its students had to be accommodated in tents. Beginning with forty students in 1869, it had 528 ten years later, 1,776 in 1894 and 2,300 in 1896. A crisis had arrived. A large building programme had to be undertaken, and the construction of more buildings under the old methods would mean the irrevocable perpetuation of a state of architectural chaes.

Wandsting over the hills and comparing in fancy what was with what might be, Mr. B. R. Maybeck, a promising young architect who was teaching architectural drawing in the university, conceived the idea of a building scheme that should serve for all future time. He pictured to himself a superb scholastic city, its buildings massed upon the slopes of the Berkeley hills in one harmonious and overpowering whole. He made some drawings to illustrate his ideas, and if they had been elaborated and submitted in the international competition it is safe to say that they would have taken a high rank before the jury.

It happened at this time that Mrs. Phebe Hearst, who had manifested in various ways a strong interest in the university, was anxious to give it a mining building as a memoral to her husband, the late Senator Hearst. But such a building as she wished to put up would have been out of place in the architectural jumble at Berkeley. It would have had no artistic relations with anything there. Hesitating in perplexity, Mrs. Hearst welcomed with enthusiasm Mr. Maybeck's solution of the problem. In a letter to the Regents on October 22, 1896, she offered to bear the expense of an international competition to secure a permanent architectural plan to be followed in all future

construction work for the university. In this letter she said: I have only one wish in this matter-that the plans adopted should be worthy of the great university whose material home they are to provide for; that they should harmonize with, and even enhance, the beauty of the site whereon the home is to be built, and that they should redound to the glory of the State whose culture

and civilization are to be nursed and developed at its university. It was estimated that it would cost about \$100,000 to carry out such a

competition on a proper scale, and this estimate has been verified. A young graduate of the university, Mr. J. B. Reinstein, was a member of the Board of Regents. Mr. Reinstein threw himself into the work initiated by Mr. Maybeck and Mrs. Hearst with a zeal that carried everything before He corresponded with eminent architects and educators all over the world. He visited the East and Europe in search of ideas. He canvassed the millionaires of California for promises of help in the construction of the buildings after the plans should be adopted. He worked for increases in the State appropriations.

At first there were some discouragements. Many architects said that a competition could not succeed. They declared that the only satisfactory way of securing plans would be to hire a well-known man on his reputation, and let him do the work. But the Californians did not lose heart. Theirs was not to be an ordinary competition, and they felt that the architects of the world would not lose such a chance to win immortal fame, not to speak of the possibilities of fortune. They framed a programme, inviting architects everywhere to join in a double competition. The first was to be open to all, and at least ten prizes were to be awarded. The prize winners were to join in a second competition, in which other prizes, to the amount of \$29,000, were to be distributed. No limit was placed upon the cost of the buildings, and no attention was to be paid to any of the existing structures. The grounds were to be treated as a blank space, on which an ideal university was to be constructed. Maps, plans, photographs, casts and full descriptions of the site were distributed throughout this country and Europe. The most distinguished architects in France, Germany, England and America were selected as a jury.

Ninety-eight contestants took par was decided at Antwerp. After examin four. It studied the remainder again, a A third examination reduced the surviunanimously approved, and the author them were Americans, three French,

For the second competition the elever fornia as the guests of Mrs. Hearst, to They elaborated their designs with infini. be rendered in San Francisco. There the ju cal, a member of the Superior Council of th Inspector of Civil Buildings, Vice-President and Architect of the National Library of I the new Reichstag building at Berlin; Jo of Chartered Accountants at London; V the designers of Andrew Carnegie's no B. Reinstein, studied the plans for a week unanimously in favor of the superb design duced above. The first prize of \$10,000 was other prizes were given, all to Americans, a

Howells, Stokes & Hornbostle, New York, at Despradelles & Codman, Boston, third prize, Howard & Cauldwell, New York, fourth pr Lord, Hewlett & Hull, New York, fifth priz

M. Benard, the winner of the first prize. architects of France. He is fifty-five years Inferieure, won the Grand Prix de Rome in Ecole des Beaux Arts, a member of the I tect of the District of Havre, designer of the of the Casino in Nice, of the Court House piegne, of the churches of Blaville and

architectural monuments of France.' Curiously enough, although M. Bena features of his design which attracted. fect adaptation to the site. "Even the university grounds have been taker + buildings are so arranged that nor